**Delegation of powers of customs authori- I ties to the development commissioners of export processing zones**

920. SHRI S. MADHAVAN; Will the r Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what steps have been taken to delegate the powers of the Customs authorities to the Development Commissioners of Export Processing Zones in the Free Trade Zones to help the export units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): A proposal of this Ministry for delegation of powers of Collector Customs and Central Excise to the Development Commissioners of the Export Processing Zone has not been agreed to.

**Approval of international jute council for jute production**

921. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Jute Council has approved funding of projects relating to the development of non-woven products made from jute and jute blends and test marketing; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The International Jute Council in its Thirteenth Session has approved the project, "Development of Non-woven Products from Jute and jute blend and Test Marketing" with an outlay of US $430, 530 on partially funded basis. The British Textile Technology Group (BTTG), Manchester will execute the Project. The available _^ facilities in the relevant research institutions of the producing countries will be utilized for the project to the maximum possible extent for collaborative research activities. The field trials with jute wastes would also include low grades of jute without affecting the total outlay.

**Credit facilities to fishing companies**

922. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of fishing: companies that have availed credit facilities from the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited and from the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee so far;

(b) what is the amount of total credit extended;

(c) whether it is a fact that practi cally all the fishing companies are in arrears to the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited;

(d) what are the names of the companies which are paying interest and repaying loans promptly and have **no** arreiars as on date;

(e) what concessions are extended to well managed companies having no arrears as on date while considering concessions to sick/defaulling companies; and

(f) whether Government Plan to intro duce a system to reward the well manag ed companies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) It has been reported by SCICI that they have extended credit facilities to 22 fishing companies to the tune of Rs. 77. 88 crores since their inception. The erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC) had extended credit facilities to 85 fishing companies to the tune of Rs. 103. 61 crores.

(c) 5 companies assisted by Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI) are in arrears and have approached SCICI for reschedulement, 60 companies assisted by the erstwhile SDFC are in default.

(d) The list of companies that are regular in repayments is attached as Statement.

(e) Companies which are prompt in their repayment obligations get a subsidy of 1. 25 per cent on the interest rate in the case of indigenous trawlers and 0. 5 per cent in the case of imporetd trawlers as per the loan agreement.

(f) No such proposal is under consideration.

**Statement**

*List of companies which are regular in )U3w£vd*

1. Pron Magnate Limited (Assisted by the SDFC as well as SCICI).
2. Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation.
3. Matsyika Exports Limited.
4. Nekkanti Sea Foods Limited.
5. G. P. Marines Products Limited.
6. Navbharat Ferro Alloys Limited.

**Norms for grant of loan for economic development of minority commnnities by Gramin banks**

923. SHRI MAULANA ASAD MADANI; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms followed by Gramin Banks in the country for grant of loan for the economic development of Minority communities; and

(b) what is the percentage of loan granted to the members of minority communities by the Basaitha and Palli branches of Madhubani Kshetriya Gra min Bank, a subsidiary unit of the Central Bank of India (Bihar)?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVDAY SINGH): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NBARD) have reported that while there are no separate policies to grant loan for the economic development of minority communities in Gramin Banks. Regional Rural Banks have been advised to set up a special cell to monitor, the r flow of credit to minority communities and to review the progress made in dispensing credit at the meetings of District Level Coordination and State Level Bankers' Committees.

(b) Central Bank of India, sponsor bank of Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank, have reported that the percentage share of minority communities in total advances granted by Basaitha and Palli branches of Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank as at the end of September, 1990 stood at 8. 50 per cent and 23. 70 per cent respectively.

**Pending cases in High Courts in the country**

924. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of con stitutional, criminal, civil, materimonial, revenue and other cases at present pend ing in each High Court, of the country, category-wise; and

(b) what action Government have taken or propose to take to clear the arrears of pending cases in the Hie'i ' Courts?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The Judge strength has been in creased from time to time. Procedural improvements and modifications to speed-up disposal of cases have been made. The Courts are taking various steps such a greuping of cases involving com mon questions of law, giving priority to cases requiring of law, giving, constitu tion of specialised benches, etc. The